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Sanusi-Oita

KEDAH PLANS JOINT VENTURES WITH OITA PREFECTURE

LANGKAWI, Nov 15 (Bernama) -- Kedah intends to pursue a series of joint ventures with the Oita Prefecture in Japan in medium-scale industries, agriculture and tourism.

Menteri Besar Tan Sri Sanusi Junid said today that based on the growing ties with the prefecture in recent years where an Oita-Kedah Training Institute had been set up in Sik, Kedah, there was tremendous potential for both parties to benefit in the context of "smart partnership".

Speaking to the Japanese media after the opening of the Fourth Asia-Kyushu Regional Exchange Summit by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad here, he said Oita could help in the tourism industry by marketing Langkawi as a renowned destination while the people of Kedah could visit Japan.

He said the joint venture training institute would see the officers of the two districts visiting each other and learning to develop various projects along socio-economic lines.

Sanusi said both parties had begun discussing a book village project in Oita as Langkawi had developed its own book village, the first outside Asia and the seventh in the world.

"Through such project we can generate sales and improve the reading habits of the communities as a high quantum of publication and book titles will be displayed and sold to interested parties", he added.

Meanwhile, when presenting his working paper on "Social Change and Development" at the summit, Sanusi said that since assuming the helm of the state government, he had initiated several key programmes such as development of the tourism industry, reclamation of land, using mosques as centres of activities, knowledge enhancement and turning Langkawi into an academic and research centre.

Sanusi said the development strategies in Kedah would give priority to balanced development and the "mosque as centres of activities" programme had attracted thousands of children to use the mosques as places for studying. -- BERNAMA

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